

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 1659

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINPAC HONOLULU, HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5193

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, CB

SUBJ: JAPAN TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK

1. FONOFF (HANABUSA) INFORMED EMBASSY GOJ WILL ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION OF CAMBODIA'S GRUNK MORNING APRIL 19. CABINET APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR OGAWA IN PEKING WILL ATTEMPT TO SEE SIHANOUK TO OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATE JAPAN'S DECISION.

2. HANABUSA TOLD US YESTERDAY, APRIL 18, GOJ RE-
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COGNITION OF GRUNK WAS PLANNED FOR APRIL 22, IN CON-

CERT WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES. AUSTRALIA'S RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK'S GRUNK, HOWEVER, TRIGGERED ASEAN NATIONS TO ACT AND JAPAN DOES NOT WANT TO BE TARDY. AFTER SIHANOUK'S SEVERE COMMENTS TO SOKAGAKKAI LEADER IKEDA IN PEKING APRIL 18 TO EFFECT THAT JAPAN WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FEW YEARS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH GRUNK, FONOFF DOUBTS SIHANOUK WILL RECEIVE AMB OGAWA. NEVERTHELESS, GOJ WILL PROCEED WITH UNILATERAL RECOGNITION.

3. UNLESS JAPAN IS CATEGORICALLY REBUFFED, HANABUSA SAID GOJ WOULD AT SOME FUTURE DATE WHEN IT MIGHT SEEM FEASIBLE, ATTEMPT TO SEND LOW LEVEL DIPLOMATS BACK TO PHNOM PENH AND QUIETLY RE-OPEN JAPAN'S EMBASSY. AMB KURINO PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH, BUT FONOFF DOUBTS GRUNK WOULD ACCEPT HIM. IN WAKE OF SIHANOUK'S REMARKS, FONOFF IS VERY UNSURE ABOUT FUTURE RELATIONS WITH PHNOM PENH. IN LONGER RUN, HANABUSA BELIEVES THAT NEITHER MOSCOW NOR PEKING HAS THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO RECONSTRUCT CAMBODIA AND HE THINKS PHNOM PENH WILL NEED JAPAN AND ITS RESOURCES. HANABUSA ALSO BELIEVES BEST STRATEGY FOR HELPING KHMER PEOPLE AND NOURISHING NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN CAMBODIA WILL BE FOR NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS, PARTICULARLY JAPAN, ASEAN, AUSTRALIA AND WEST EUROPEANS, TO MOVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH GRUNK.

4. AS GOJ, MEDIA ALSO FAVORS IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF NEW REALITIES IN KHMER AND MOVEMENT BY JAPAN TO ASSIST KHMER PEOPLE AND NEW KHMER GOVERNMENT. REQUIEM OF MEDIA OF LON NOL REGIME WAS LOUD SIGHS OF RELIEF THAT TRAGEDY AND DEVASTATION IN KHMER WAS FINALLY ENDING AND RECONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN. RESPONSIBILITY FOR KHMER AGONY WAS POINTED DIRECTLY AT U.S. YOMIURI CHARGED "IT WAS THE EGOSIM OF THE UNITED STATES THAT DRAGGED KHMER INTO WAR". "FIVE YEARS OF BLOODSHED", ACCORDING TO YOMIURI, RESULTED FROM THE U.S. "INCURSION". MAINICHI CLAIMED THAT MISERIES OF KHMER EXCEEDED JAPANESE TRAVAIL DURING THE

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PACIFIC WAR AND CONCLUDED, "NEVER BEFORE HAS A SUPERPOWER'S EGOISM AND A SMALL COUNTRY'S MISERY BEEN SO VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED. AT LEAST THERE HAS BEEN NO PARALLEL IN THE HISTORY OF THE POSTWAR WORLD". MAINICHI THEN PRONOUNCED THE BENEDICTION, "THE FALL OF PHNOM PENH SYMBOLIZES THE DEFEAT OF THE U.S.' SE ASIAN POLICY".

5. COMMENT: GOJ WANTS TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE IN CAMBODIA, IN CONCERT ESPECIALLY WITH ASEAN
COUNTRIES. FAILURE OF PAST INDOCHINA POLICIES HAS
ALREADY SUBJECTED GOJ TO POLITICAL ATTACK AND
SHOULD JAPAN BE SHUT OUT OF CAMBODIA AND SVN, IN
FUTURE, RECRIMINATIONS FROM OPPOSITION WOULD BE
FEROCIOS. FONOFF, AT THIS POINT AT LEAST, STILL
HOPES ECONOMIC NEED WILL FAVORABLY MODIFY ATTITUDES
OF WHATEVER NEW GOVERNMENTS EMERGE IN INDOCHINA.
HODGSON

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